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Pastor's Column

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"A Tree Full of Angels"

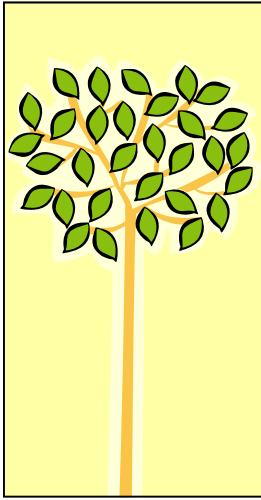
These thoughts are taken from "A Tree Full of Angels" written by Sister Macrina Wiederkehr:

I must share with you a story about a particularly barren time in my life when I used a tree for a spiritual director. I learned so much that year because I listened in silence...

Because it was small I couldn't lean on it but could only sit beside it. That taught me a lot about what the role of a spiritual guide should be.

Even though it was small, it had the ability to give a certain amount of shade. You don't have to have a lot of leaves to give shade. Because it was silent I listened deeply. You don't need a lot of words to connect with God.

When it got thirsty I watered it. The miracle of water is a little like the miracle of God's love. That little sycamore taught me a lot about foot washing. Watering it was a great joy. A soul-friend relationship never works only one way. There is mutual giving and receiving.



I learned from my tree that being transplanted is possible. I can always put down roots again, connect with the Great Root, and grow on...

I wouldn't recommend using a tree for a spiritual guide all the days of one's life, but that sycamore got me through a long stretch of barrenness. It was only a little tree, and I didn't know it was holy until I spent time with it.

Truly, holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary.

I pray that these days of summer are a time of "re-creation" for you!

F. n. Mike